

## REMARKS

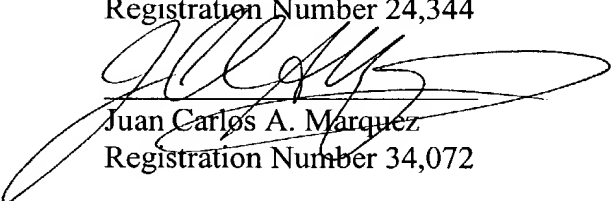
Further to a telephone conference with the Petitions Examiner, Ms. Frances Hicks, on September 21, 2004, Applicants are by this Supplemental Amendment amending the specification to incorporate the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to PCT Application Number PCT/JP98/05449 filed on December 3, 1998, which designates the United States, and are concurrently filing a Petition To Accept Unintentionally Delayed Claim For Priority Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3). The assistance of the Examiner is greatly appreciated.

Applicants respectfully request that the above-outlined amendment be given due consideration and that the allowability of the amendment be indicated.

Favorable consideration of the above amendment is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the allowance and entry of the above amendment, the Office is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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